

# The Legends School of Education

Subject : Civics

Chapter no.1

Q:- What is democracy? Why democracy?

Ans. Here is some information about four countries based on this information how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic' 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

1. Country A:- People who do not accept the country's official religion, do not have a right to vote.

Ans. Undemocratic.

2. Country B:- The same party has been winning elections for the last twenty years.

Ans. Not sure.

3. Country C:- Ruling party has lost in the last three elections.

Ans. Democratic

4. Country D:- There is no independent election commission.

Ans. Undemocratic.

Q2:- Here is some information about four countries. Based on this information how would you classify each of these countries. Write 'democratic' or 'undemocratic' or 'not sure' against each of these.

a. Country P: The Parliament cannot pass Law about army without the consent of the chief of army.

Ans. Undemocratic.

b. Country Q:- The Parliament cannot pass a law reducing the powers of the Judiciary.

Ans. Undemocratic.

c. Country R:- The country's leaders cannot sign any treaty with another country without taking permission from its neighbouring

Ans. Not sure.

d. Country S: All the major economic decisions about the country are taken by officials of the Central Bank which the ministers cannot change.

Q3:- Which of these is not a good argument in favour of democracy? Why?

a. People feel free and equal in a democracy.

b. Democracies resolve conflict in a better way than others.

c. Democratic government is more accountable to the people.

d. Democracies are more prosperous than others.

Ans. Democracies are more prosperous than others,

Economic prosperity depends upon many factors like availability of natural resources, quality of human resources, finance, geopolitical scenario etc. A particular form of government has some role to play. So it cannot be seen as a good argument in favour of democracy.

Q4:- Each of these statements contains a democratic and an undemocratic element. Write out the two separately for each statement.

a. A minister said that some laws have to be passed by the parliament in order to conform to the regulations decided by the World Trade Organisation. (WTO)

Ans. The fact that the laws to be passed by the parliament is democratic while conformation to the WTO regulation is undemocratic.

b. The Election Commission ordered re-polling in a constituency where large-scale rigging was reported.

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Ans. Repolling is democratic while rigging is undemocratic.

- c. Women's representation in the parliament has barely reached to percent. This led women's organizations to demand one-third seats for women.

Ans. Poor level of women's representation is undemocratic while the demand of  $\frac{1}{3rd}$  seats is democratic.

Q5:- Which of these is not a valid reason for arguing that is a lesser possibility of famine in a democratic country?

- Ans. a. Opposition parties can draw attention to hunger and starvation.  
b. Free press can report suffering from famine in different parts of the country.  
c. Government fears its defeat in the next elections.  
d. People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Ans. People are free to believe in and practice any religion.

Q6:- There are 40 villages in a district where the government has made no provision for drinking water. These villages met and considered many methods of forcing the government to respond to their need.

Which of these is not a democratic methods.

- a. Filing a case in the courts claiming that water is part of right to life.
- b. Boycotting the next elections to give a message to all parties.
- c. Organising public meeting against government's policies.
- d. Paying money to government officials to get water.

Ans. Paying money to government officials to get water.

Q7:- Write a response to the following arguments against democracy:

- a. Army is the most disciplined and corruption free organization in the country. Therefore army should rule the country.

Ans. Army officers are not elected by people and hence an army rule will be undemocratic.

- b. Rule of majority means the rule of ignorant people. What we need is rule of the wise, even if they are in small.

Ans. Democracy is based on the idea of Universal Adult Franchise, restricting the rulers from a small section comprising of wise people, would defeat the purpose of representational democracy.

- c. If we want religious leaders to guide us in spiritual matters, why not invite them to guide us in politics as well. The country should be ruled by religious leaders.

Ans. Religious leaders are not elected by the people, hence the country should not be ruled by religious leaders.

Q8:- Are the following statements in keeping with democracy as a value? Why?

- a. Father to daughter: I don't want to hear your opinion about your marriage, In our family children marry where the parents tell them to.

Ans. In this case the daughter does not have the freedom of choice, hence it is undemocratic.

- b. Teacher to student: Don't disturb my concentration by asking me questions in the classroom.

Ans. The teacher may be involved in thinking about an important topic and hence is asking the students not to disturb her. It cannot be said with surety whether the teacher's request is democratic or not.

- c. Employee to the officer: Our working hours must be reduced according to the law.

Ans. The employee is asking for fundamental right, hence is democratic.

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Q9:- Consider the following facts about a country and decide if you would call it a democracy. Give reasons to support your decision.

- a. All the citizens of the country have right to vote. Elections are held regularly.

Ans. Regular elections and universal adult franchise are two features of democracy, hence it is a democratic situation.

- b. The country took loan from international agencies. One of the conditions for giving loan was that the government would reduce its expenses on education and health.

Ans. An International agency should not interfere in the internal matters of a country. Hence it is undemocratic.

- c. People speak more than seven languages but education is available only in one language, the language spoken by 52 percent people of that country.

Ans. This is an example where majority will is being imposed and hence is democratic

- d. several organizations have given call for peaceful demonstrations and nation wide strikes in the country to oppose these policies. Government has arrested these leaders.

Ans. Democratic government should provide right to protest. The government is denying such right to its citizens and hence is undemocratic.

- e. The government owns the radio and television in the country. All the newspapers have to get permission from the government from the government to publish any news about government's policies and protests.

Ans. Freedom of media is very important for a democracy. This is an undemocratic example.

Q10:- Write an essay on 'Democracy and Poverty' using the information given in the report (provided on textbook) but using examples from India.

Ans. There is no denying fact that poverty has a direct and deep impact on a democracy. Modern democracy is a form of Govt. run by the rich section of society. The rich control the media and use it for their own benefit. Influence of rich over politics is clearly visible in the countries like England, USA and India. In India only rich people can contest the election. The poor people are bought and sold the poor cannot fight elections against the rich and get elected. As a result the rich influence the government when it takes the decisions about the policies.

Indian government has taken away many welfare scheme's like Mahatma Ghandi National rural employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA). The Swarna Jayanti Gram Sworozgar Yojna (SGSY), but three implementation is far from satisfactory like USA and in India different political parties pay more attention to the concerns of the rich who contribute most of their funds.